the past periods not billed earlier, amounts of dishonoured cheques, cost of burnt meters etc. recoverable from the consumers are generally indicated in the column of "Miscellaneous Charges" in the electricity bills. The amount realised forms part of the normal receipts of DESU and therefore question of its earmarking for any specific utilisation does not arise.

Electronic Exchanges with Indigenous Equipments in Maharashtra

2801. DR. GUNAWANT RAMBHAN SARODE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the manually operated telephone exchanges at Savda, Raver, Nimbhora in Jalgaon District of Maharashtra by a moden electronic exchange with indigenous Equipments of ILT 1500, 1000, 512 respectively by the end of 1991;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be put in operation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The manually operated telephone exchanges at Savda, Raver and Nimbhora are proposed to be replaced by indigenous electronic 512 P ILT and C-DOT RAX units during 1991.

(b) i) Savda is under final stage of testing and commissioning.

ii) Exchange equipments for Raver and Nimbhora have been allotted and supply is awaited.

(c) By March, 1992.

[*Translation*]

Criteria for Grant of Pension to Freedom Fighters

2802. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased the criteria adopted by the Union Government for the grant of freedom fighter pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): The criteria adopted by the Union Government for the grant of freedom fighter pension as per the Swatantrata Sainik Samman pension Scheme, under which the cut off date for receipt of applications was 31.3.82, is as follows:

i) Imprisonment of six months before Independence in mainland jails. However, EX-INA personnel will be eligible for pension, if the imprisonment/detention was outside India. In case of Women/SC & ST freedom fighters, the minimum period of imprisonment is three months.

Explanation

Detention under the orders of competent authority will be considered as imprisonment. Period of normal remission upto one month will be treated as part of actual imprisonment. Undertrial period will be counted towards actual imprisonment. Borken period of imprisonment will be totalled up for computing the qualified period.

ii) Remaining underground for six months or more against warrant of arrest/detention order.

iii) Internment in Home or externment from District for a period of six months or more.

iv) Loss of property owing to confiscation and/or attachment.

v) Permanent incapacitation during firing or lathi charge.

vi) Loss of Job (Central or State Government) and thereby means of livelihood.

vii) Punishment of 10 or more strokes of caning/flogging.

Families of martyrs and freedom fighters no longer alive, are also eligible for grant of freedom fighters persion. Applications should be produced along with official documentary evidences acceptable certificates prescribed under the Pension Scheme in support of claimed suffering/ sufferings.

Special Facilities to Extra Departmental Employees of Hilly Area

2803. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether similar norms have been fixed by the Government for the Extra Departmental Employees engaged in plain and hilly areas;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to give special facilities to Extra Departmental Employees and pay scale equal to the departmental employees; and

(d) if not, the details of the facilities provided by the Government to those employees engaged in hilly areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As ED Agents are only part-time employees of the Department, special facilities like grant of pay scale equal to the Departmental employees cannot be extended to them.

(d) No Special facilities are provided by the Government to the ED agents employed in the Hilly Areas.

[*English*]

Facilities for Tribes of Plains and Foot-Hills

2804. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the scope of I.T.D.P. (Integrated Tribal Development Project) for the tribes living in plains and foot hills;

(b) whether the Government have indentified the villages, families and population of tribes living in plains which are deprived of facilities provided by I.T.D.P.; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to extend the benefits to those tribals?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The Taluks/Tehsils, Developmental blocks with 50% tribal concentration were indentified as ITDPs. The tribes living in plains and foot hills are also covered under these ITDPs.

(b) and (c). The Scheduled Tribe families not covered under Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDPs) are covered under Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) with 10,000 population out of which 50% will be Scheduled Tribes and clusters